THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 25th March 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Duties of Personal Assistants to certain officers.

* 108 *Q.*—SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR (on behalf of Sri K. Natarajan): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the duties assigned to the officers holding the following appointments are—

(1) Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction,

(2) Personal Assistant to the Director of Agriculture,

(3) Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General,

(4) Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour,

(5) Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police, and

(6) Personal Assistant to the District Agricultural Officer;

(*b*) whether irrespective of the necessity or otherwise of these posts when they were created, there is now any necessity for the retention of these posts;

(*c*) whether the functions which these officers perform at present cannot be redistributed among the rest of the staff in the several departments without detriment to efficiency of administration;

(*d*) whether any other arrangements, involving no cost or less cost cannot be made for discharging those duties;

(*e*) whether the offices of the Deputy Inspector of Local Boards, and Divisional Inspector of Schools cannot be abolished without detriment to efficiency of administration; and

(*f*) whether the above suggestions can, if the Government agree to their advisability, be brought into force immediately without waiting for the formation of a Retrenchment Committee or for the report of any such Committee?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (*a*) The duties of the Personal Assistants are to exercise immediate supervision over the establishments attached to offices in which they are employed to do the less responsible part of the superior officers' work, to exercise certain financial powers within prescribed limits and generally to assist superior officers in all respects thus enabling the latter to bestow greater attention to major departmental affairs.

[25th March 1947

" (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (c) & (d) The answer is in the negative.

" (e) & (f) The answer is in the negative so far as Deputy Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards are concerned. As regards Divisional Inspectors of Schools, the matter is under consideration."

Fines levied under the City Police Act.

* 109 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Mr. K. O. Anthoni): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the amounts of fine collected in the City of Madras for causing obstruction to public thoroughfare (section 71, clause XI, Act III of 1888) in the following years:

1939 and 1946;

(b) whether in view of the increased population of the City during the past few years, greater facilities have been provided by Government to sell fruits, vegetable and other articles in places allotted to them; and

(c) whether it is a fact that orders have been issued by the Government stipulating the minimum fines that shall be levied for certain offences under this Act and if so, whether it is not interfering with the discretion of the magistracy?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (a) The amounts of fine collected in Madras City for causing obstruction to public thoroughfare under clause XI of section 71 of the Madras City Police Act, 1888, were Rs. 23,500 in 1939 and Rs. 44,420 in 1946.

" (b) Additional facilities have been provided by the Corporation.

" (c) The answer is in the negative. The latter part of the question does not arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it from the Hon. Minister that the Government have not issued any such instructions?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I said in the other House to-day, I have not had time to go into details concerning the administration as yet and if the hon. Gentleman will put another question, I shall be able to give better information."

Appointment of an Indian as Surgeon-General.

* 110 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras is falling vacant at an early date;

(b) whether it is proposed to appoint an Indian to the vacancy;

(c) whether it is not the policy of the Government to Indianize the services as and when the vacancies arise;